



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Reminders Regarding the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program in the Gulf of Mexico

Quota Changes for 2011 Fishing Year

The quota for red grouper will be 4.32 million pounds gutted weight and the quota for gag grouper will be 100,000 pounds gutted weight in 2011. The gag grouper quota may be increased later in the fishing year pending the outcome of a gag stock assessment this December. These quota changes will result in shareholders receiving 25% less red grouper allocation (pounds of fish) and 93% less gag grouper allocation than received at the start of the 2010 fishing season. The quotas for deep-water grouper, tilefish, and other shallow water grouper remain unchanged. The quota for red snapper will be increased later provided the total allowable catch for red snapper in fishing year 2010 is not exceeded.

Transfer 2011 Allocation to Your Vessel Account after January 1

On January 1, allocation will be reissued to your shareholder account, *not your vessel account*. Any unused allocation from the 2010 fishing year will be removed and not carried over to the 2011 fishing year. To harvest your 2011 allocation, you must transfer sufficient allocation to your vessel account prior to your landing notification.

To transfer allocation to your vessel account:

1. Log-in to your IFQ shareholder account and select **Allocation** then **Transfer Allocation** from the menu bar.
2. On the **Transfer Allocation** page select "To My Vessel Account" from the drop-down menu.
3. Click on your vessel account in the table on the middle of the page and highlight it in blue. The numbers to the right of your vessel's name will indicate the allocation currently held in your vessel account by share category.
4. The table at the bottom of the Transfer Allocation page shows the allocation currently in your shareholder account. In the "Transfer Pounds (gutted weight)" column type in the number of pounds of allocation you wish to transfer to your vessel account for each share category.

5. To complete the allocation transfer press Submit in the lower left corner of the screen. You will receive a pop-up window to confirm the transfer.

Update Your Account

If you have not done so already, please log into your IFQ account and update your account information, including adding an e-mail address and secret questions. Your e-mail address is used to send receipts of share and allocation transfers, reminders of cost recovery fees, and other important information regarding your IFQ account. If you forget your password, you can also have your password e-mailed to you by answering your secret questions for accessing your account.

To update your account or find a UserID and PIN:

1. Log-in to your IFQ shareholder account and select **Update Account** from the menu bar.
2. On the Update Account page, click on the shareholder or vessel account you would like to update or view and highlight it in blue.
3. Once you have selected an account, you can view your PIN for that account. To update your PIN, delete the old PIN and type a new PIN. You will also need to retype the new PIN to confirm the change. The PIN must meet the PIN criteria shown on the page. **Your vessel account PIN must be used for completing landing transactions with a dealer.**
4. Enter your e-mail address and check the email flag box to receive IFQ-related messages.
5. Select two secret questions and provide answers to each question. These secret questions allow you to retrieve your PIN using the **Forgot PIN** feature on the IFQ homepage. If you call IFQ Customer Support with questions to discuss your specific account, IFQ Customer Support will ask you these questions to confirm your identity.
6. Press Submit at the bottom of the page to update your account.

Vessel Transfers

If you transfer a reef fish permitted vessel, the vessel account associated with that vessel must be transferred as well. Before initiating the vessel transfer please remove any IFQ allocation from your vessel account so that the vessel account can be transferred to the new owner. If you purchase a reef fish permitted vessel, please contact IFQ Support to facilitate the transfer of the vessel account into your IFQ Shareholder account. NOAA Fisheries Service will be unable to transfer the vessel account to the new permit holder until all IFQ allocation has been removed by the old permit holder.

Accept Share Transfers

Remember that a share transfer is not complete until the transferee accepts the share transfer. To accept a share transfer, log-in to your shareholder account, select the “Receive Transferred Shares” tab, and follow the instructions to accept or reject a share transfer. Share transfers initiated in 2010 must be complete prior to December 31, 2010, to take effect in 2011.

To Receive Transferred Shares:

1. Log-in to the IFQ online system and select **Shares** then **Receive Transferred Shares** from the menu bar.
2. On the Transferred Shares page you will see a table summarizing all pending share transfers. Included in the table is the percentage of shares transferred by share category and the transfer status. Select a transfer from the list by highlighting it in blue.
3. Review each share transfer to ensure the percentage, price, and other information are correct.
4. If the information is correct, select ‘Accepted’. If you want to reject the transfer, select ‘Rejected.’
5. To confirm your acceptance of the transferred shares, select the ‘Confirm’ button.

Cost Recovery Fees (CRF)

Fishers are responsible for submitting 3% of the ex-vessel value of IFQ species to the dealer purchasing those fish. At the end of each calendar quarter, the dealer is responsible for submitting the CRF to NOAA Fisheries Service via the online system. The dealer has 30 days to submit the CRF. Dealer accounts may be suspended after 30 days pending payment of applicable fees. The payment schedule is listed below as a reminder.

Quarter	CRF available	CRF due on or before
1 st	April 1	May 1
2 nd	July 1	July 31
3 rd	October 1	October 31
4 th	January 1	January 31

Troubleshooting Guide

For more information on how to use the IFQ online system, go to the **Troubleshooting Guide** on the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish IFQ homepage.

Please Send Your Feedback

As the online system continues to change, please provide your suggested changes and additions by e-mail SER-IFQ.Support@noaa.gov, or call IFQ Support at **1-866-425-7627 (Option 2)** Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Eastern Time, excluding federal holidays. We will review the suggested changes and if possible, incorporate your suggestions into the program.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.